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International First Place: Kentucky's Boating Safety Ads, add up

Are you familiar with “Point of Purchase?” That’s why stores put candy bars in checkout lanes. It’s also why the Division of Law Enforcement places water safety ads on the radio – to reach boaters on the water or on their way there.

This summer, what listeners will hear is ranked at the very top by the International Boating and Water Safety Summit held in April in Sandestin, Florida. Attendees included boating safety representatives from every state, Canada, Australia, Japan, USA, Guam and more.

Kentucky’s water safety ads received First Place at the Summit.

Congratulations are in order for **Zac Campbell**, coordinator of the state’s Boating Education program, and writer/producer **Charlie Baglan** with Division of Information & Education.

The two again took first place with an ad that hits home with boaters – *Arguing with yourself about lifejackets? The answer is, “Yes.” The answer has always been yes. You’ve only been lucky ‘til now.* Listen to the spot [here](#). The delightfully perplexed voices in

the commercial include **Kristy Nowak**, **Clifford Scott** and **Brian Clark**.

It’s worthy to note that this is Baglan and Campbell’s third First Place award in the global competition in the past four years. Building on the theme, *Your lifejacket’s got your back*, Baglan says, “Advertising has to be original and connect immediately with what consumers are thinking.” He adds, “Boating is fun and we just want to keep it that way.”

The IBWSS is conducted by the National Water Safety Congress and the National Safe Boating Council.

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WE GET MAIL

Letters to the Commissioner's Office

Laura Burford, I & E Assistant Director, received this note from the Crab Orchard Cub Scouts Pack 356 leader:

Greetings Mrs. Burford.

My name is Michelle Berry and I'm a leader for the Crab Orchard Cub Scouts. Last Monday, April 13, Mr. **John Coffey** took time out his busy schedule

to visit our Scout group. Let me sing his praises! John was AMAZING! He showed our seven boys how to make a cane fishing pole and brought everything to make it with for each boy. He also gave them several booklets and taught us lots of facts about fishing and even scouting.

We had been studying about wildlife conservation. Most of our Scouts had earned badges and John presented them formally to the boys for me. That made for some great pictures.

All of us with Pack 356 had a great experience. Thank you, thanks John and thanks to your conservation program.

Conservation Officers select Markwell as 6th District Sportsman of the Year

Sixth District Conservation Officers have selected Denny Markwell, an Anderson County resident and landowner, as the recipient of this year's District Sportsman of the Year award.

Markwell was nominated for the award by conservation officers in the 17-county district.

The criteria for this award includes, but is not limited to assisting the Conservation Officers in their area with a successful prosecution on Fish & Wildlife cases, assisting them with youth events such as fishing derbies, turkey & deer hunts, and helping in other areas of outdoor education.

Markwell is long well known in the deer hunting world to many hunters in and around Anderson County. He owns and operates a deer processing business located on Bruner Road in Western Anderson County. He has been a resident and landowner in Anderson County for several years. He is an avid hunter and fisherman.

District conservation officers have organized and conducted youth deer and turkey hunts in Anderson and Mercer counties. Some of the youth deer hunts have included as many as 30 participants. Success rates have been phenomenal with almost 100 percent harvest on each time.



These hunts were founded to help enable area youth with little means to go hunting, whether it be financial, no one to take them, or maybe just no place to go. Markwell has consistently stepped up to help make these hunts possible.

When the hunt celebration subsides, Markwell has stepped up to process all deer taken on these hunts at no charge. He has been a vital part of the youth hunts. Without him, these hunts would not be possible.

It is important our youth that participate in these hunts understand the

purpose for harvesting these animals. Arrangements are made with all families of the participating youth on where the deer meat will go. Some are donated to the hunters for the hungry program which feeds several people in need each year. Most families benefit from the hunt by filling their own freezer with the venison.

The Conservation Officers would like to give a great big thank you to Denny Markwell for being a great friend and partner in all our endeavors through the years.

Our hats are off to Denny. Congratulations! You certainly have earned it.



NEW CAPTAINS

Commissioner Gregory K. Johnson and Col. Joe West formally presented eight new captains their gold bars during a swearing-in ceremony in Frankfort. The division is restructuring as well, and returning to managing via nine districts in lieu of regions. Front, from left, are Col. West, James Heady, Stuart Bryant, Garry Clark and Commissioner Johnson. In back are Buddy Grayson, Doug Vaughn, Charlie Phillips, Richard Adkins and Brett Zalla. Commissioner Johnson spoke to the group of new captains, their families and some department staff attending the ceremony. In a unique moment, it was retired conservation officer John Zalla, below, pinning the bar on his son, Brett.



Pigman steps down from Honor Guard after 15 years

The Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Honor Guard recognized **Officer Homer Pigman** for his 15 years of dedicated service. Officer Pigman stepped from the Honor Guard recently to spend more time with his family.

Pigman applied and was accepted into the Honor Guard in his first year as a Conservation Officer. Due to his 15 years spent serving in the Army National Guard, his attention to detail and his commitment made him a great asset to the Honor Guard for many years.

We thank Pigman for his dedication and countless hours of service to the Honor Guard.

He could always be counted on to



SGT Damon Foster presents Officer Homer Pigman with a plaque commemorating his 15 years of service to the KDFWR Honor Guard.

tatives of the Department at many functions through out the year including funerals of retired law enforcement officers, the Northern Kentucky Fallen Officer Memorial, and special details honoring fallen conservation officers from other states.

The Honor Guard also participates in school functions, Hunter Education banquets, parades and other special occasions requiring a formal presence from the Department.

The Honor Guard wishes Officer Pigman the best as he continues to serve the sportsmen and women of the commonwealth in the Seventh Law Enforcement District.

display the professionalism and dedication required to serve as a member of the KDFWR Honor Guard.

The Honor Guard serves as represen-

Watts is among 20 graduates of DOCJT'S CJED program

Conservation Officer **Sergeant Greg Watts** was one of 20 law enforcement executives from agencies across Kentucky graduating this month from the Criminal Justice Executive Development program, an advanced leadership course designed for supervisors at the state's small- and medium-size agencies.

Watts is a member of Law Enforcement Division in the Seventh District.

Jeffersontown Police Department Chief Richard W. Sanders served as guest speaker.

The 20 graduates comprised the Department of Criminal Justice Training's 17th CJED class. Paducah Police Department Captain George Johnson served as class speaker.

CJED is a five-week program that

focuses on identifying, analyzing and solving problems as well as leadership, personnel administration, operations, fiscal management, executive and environmental relationships.

The purpose of the course is to provide students with the academic background, leadership skills and management techniques required for the future. Each session enhances leadership abilities and encourages the development of visionary thinkers.

To take part in CJED, potential students must be supervisors who rank sergeant or above. They must apply for entrance into the program and be selected by a committee of CJED graduates from across the commonwealth.

Students attend CJED courses for one week each month for five months.



Woodcock attracted to dogwood stands and cut strips

Wildlife Division staff cleared about a mile of 100-foot wide strips using a skid steer and forestry chopper for improvement to American Woodcock habitat on BGAD.

They cut strips through dense stands of rough-leaved dogwood and left 300-foot wide uncut portions intact between the cut strips. Work was completed in February in time to serve as singing grounds for migration American woodcock which peaked in March.

The dense stands of dogwood serve as daytime feeding areas for woodcock. At sunset, male woodcock were heard calling within the dogwood stands.

Within minutes following sunset,



male woodcock moved into the new singing grounds attempting to attract females. Highest numbers of calling male woodcock were recorded adjacent to these newly

established clearings during recent surveys.

As the cut portions are allowed to naturally regenerate, they will also serve as habitat for turkey, quail and rabbits.

Introducing adults to turkey hunting

Kentucky Fish and Wildlife staff recently partnered with the Double Eagle Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation in a course designed to introduce adults to turkey hunting.

Participants attended a one day workshop at the Salato Wildlife Education Center and the T.N. Sullivan Wildlife Management Area where they were received information on wild turkey biology and behavior, the history of wild turkey in Kentucky, hunting strategies and tactics, turkey calling, choosing the proper firearm, and shotgun safety.

This was the second time that this type of course was offered for turkey hunt-



ing and may be offered across the state in the future. Most of the 16 participants also attended the Deer Hunting 101 course this past fall.

A big THANK YOU goes out to Jeremy Hana and Terry Gribbons from the Double Eagle Chapter of the NWTF for making this event happen.



Corbin JROTC students, KDFWR, and US Forest Service personnel gather at Laurel River Dam to assemble fish attractors.

Laurel River Lake Christmas Tree Habitat Day

Corbin High School JROTC students joined forces with the London Ranger District of the US Forest Service and KDFWR's Southeastern Fisheries District crew for a habitat day at Laurel River Lake.

This annual event uses discarded Christmas trees gathered over the holidays to provide fish habitat in the lake.

The JROTC students gathered at the beach area of Laurel River Dam to secure the Christmas trees to concrete blocks. They then loaded the tree and block structures onto Fisheries work boats. They were taken to selected locations in the lake for deployment.

The cooperative effort placed approximately 350 trees and four pallet structures in the shallow water areas of the lake. The JROTC students were excellent workers and seemed to enjoy their role in both assembling and deploying the habitat structures in the lake.



Pallet structures ready for placement.

JROTC students secure Christmas trees to concrete blocks with zip ties.



Technician Danny Parks and JROTC students deploy a Christmas tree attractor.





AERIAL ATTACK

"Snack size" – Southeast District Fisheries Biologist John Williams captured this photo series of an Osprey taking advantage of abundant trout at Brickyard Pond, a FINs lake in Knox County.





Group picture of guides and youth hunters

Anderson County Sportsman's Club Youth Turkey Hunt

The ACSC Youth Hunts... Spring 2015, April 4. Great day, great group of kids, guides and families. Had three successful harvests, with great stories. Some saw turkeys but couldn't get a good shot, some didn't see anything but had a great outdoor

experience," said Anderson County conservation officer **David Goodlett**.

Check out these photo highlights of the day.

Thanks go out to the [Anderson County Sportsman Club](#), our conservation officers,

the outstanding guides and their efforts to help the youth of today experience a hunt to last a life time, the families who allow their kids to participate and especially the many people who help with donations and goods to support this program.



L-R: Guide William Morber with Devan Reed, Officer Joshua Robinson with Braxton Briscoe, and Guide Brennan Stevens with Ethan Freeman.